Methamphetamine Community Resource Information

In our community and across the nation, methamphetamine has been an ever growing problem. As part of the Community Policing philosophy, citizens from the community are encouraged to report drug activity, including the sales of dangerous drugs and the manufacturing of dangerous drugs. In particular, methamphetamine labs have been a more common occurrence in our community. Methamphetamine is a white, odorless and bitter tasting crystalline powder that stimulates the central nervous system. The drug's euphoric effects are similar to, but longer lasting than cocaine. On the street, methamphetamine is referred to as "meth", "chalk", "crank", "CR", "R", and "tweek".

Methamphetamine is made in illegal makeshift labs that can be set up in basements, bathrooms, garages, hotel rooms, and even vehicles. It is manufactured with common household products that can be toxic and explosive when mixed together. Toxic fumes can attack mucous membranes, skin, eyes, and the respiratory system. Innocent people, including children, have died when exposed to these labs. Listed below are some common chemicals and equipment used in manufacturing methamphetamine:
Equipment Used in Methamphetamine Labs:

- Pyrex or Corning Dishes
- Jugs
- Bottles
- Funnels
- Coffee Filters
- Blender
- Rubber Tubing
- Rubber Gloves
- Strainer
- Aluminum foil
- Propane cylinder
- Fire extinguisher

Chemicals Found in Methamphetamine Labs:

- Ephedrine (cold tablets)
- Pseudoephedrine (cold tablets)
- Acetone (nail polish remover)
- Ether (engine starter fluid)
- Sulfuric Acid (drain cleaner)

- Methanol/Alcohol (gasoline additives)
- Salt
- Lithium (batteries)
- Anhydrous Ammonia (farm fertilizer)
- Red phosphorus (matches)
- Iodine

Many people may be unaware that they are living near a meth lab. Here are some things to look for:

- Unusual, strong odors (like cat urine, ether, ammonia, acetone, or solvents);
- Residences with windows blacked out;
- Renters who pay their landlords in cash;
- Lots of traffic or people coming and going at unusual times;
- Large amounts of items such as antifreeze containers, lantern fuel cans, red chemically stained coffee filters, drain cleaner and duct tape
- Unusual amount of clear glass containers being brought into the home.

If you suspect that there may be a methamphetamine lab in your area, contact the Great Falls Police Department at 771-1180 or the Cascade County Sheriff's Drug Enforcement office at 454-6839. All emergency situations should be reported by dialing 9-1-1.

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